



MR YEEND

EMBARGO: 4:00 p.m.

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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

2 MAY 1979

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
CHOI KYU HAH, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

His Excellency Choi Kyu Hah, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, visited Australia from 29 April to 3 May 1979 at the invitation of the Australian Government. The Prime Minister was accompanied by His Excellency Chang Yie Joon, Minister for Energy and Resources, and a number of senior officials of the Republic of Korea Government.

The Korean Prime Minister paid a courtesy call on His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Zelman Cowen, and laid a wreath in memory of Australian war dead at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. He also visited Sydney and Melbourne.

The Korean Prime Minister held discussions with the Australian Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, and a number of senior Cabinet Ministers on a wide range of issues. These talks took place in a most cordial and friendly atmosphere and included a frank exchange of views on the international situation, with particular reference to recent developments in the Asia/Pacific region. The Korean Prime Minister outlined the current situation in the Korean peninsula including his Government's recent attempts to bring about a resumption of the dialogue between the south and north of Korea. The Australian Prime Minister endorsed the importance of such attempts to reduce tension on the Korean peninsula.

The two Prime Ministers referred with satisfaction to the continuing growth in bilateral relations in general in recent years, and to the strengthening of economic cooperation and trade links between the two countries. They exchanged views on prospects for further development of these relations and emphasised the importance of stable conditions of access for, and reliable supply of, industrial raw materials, energy resources and agricultural products. They acknowledged the importance attached by each country to greater opportunities for its products in the other's market. They also acknowledged the necessity of expanding cultural relations, including exchanges in the educational field.

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During the Korean Prime Minister's visit the Nuclear Cooperation and Safeguards Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Korea was signed by the Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Resources, the Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony, and the Korean Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Lee Han Lim.

Both Prime Ministers expressed their belief that Prime Minister Choi's visit, the first to Australia by a Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, had contributed significantly to the promotion of the friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries. The Korean Prime Minister reaffirmed to the Australian Prime Minister the cordial invitation of his Government to visit the Republic of Korea at an early date. In response Mr. Fraser said that he warmly welcomed this invitation which he looked forward to taking up at a mutually agreeable time .

The Korean Prime Minister expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Australia for the warm hospitality extended to him and his party during their visit.